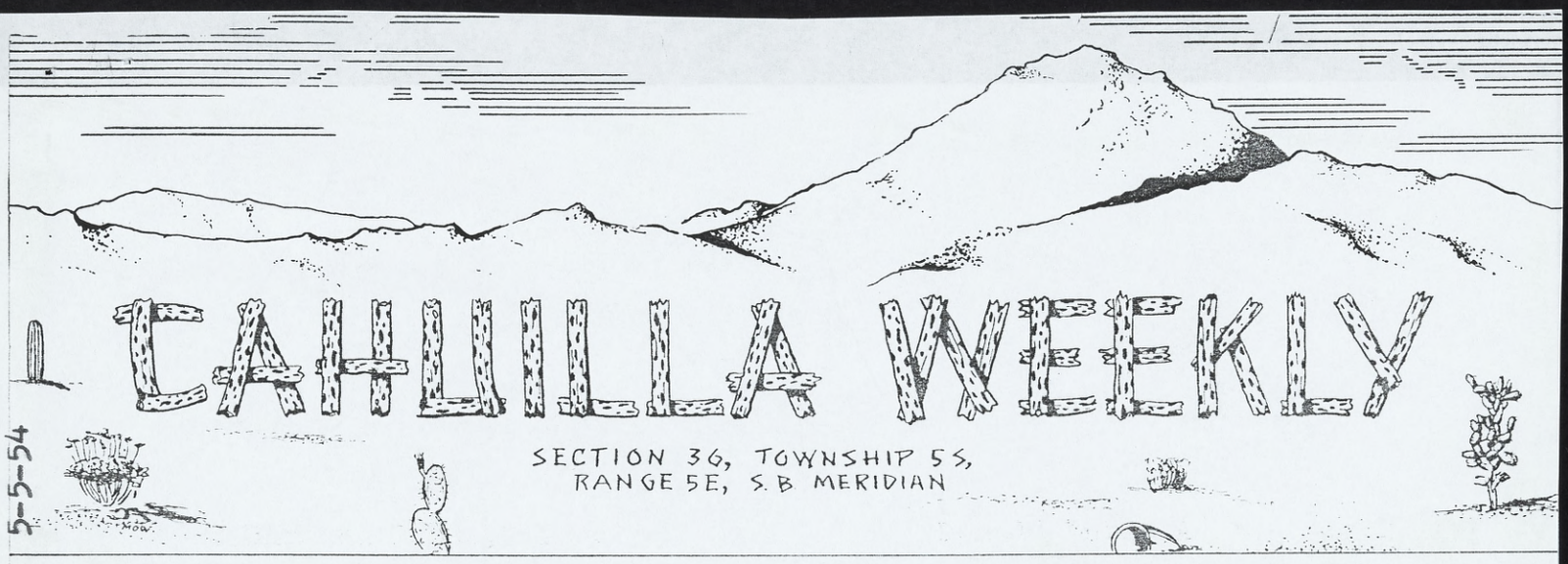

5-5-54 newsletter

Barbara Burns, Editor — Donald Burns, Asst. Editor
Vol. 2 No. 15 — May 5, 1954

LIFE WITH THE JONSES by Mora Brown

Tommy Thompson was one of the group who filed with Randall Henderson. When he came huntnig for his site in the spring of 1945, he brought Warren Jones along to help with the survey. That was the time Warren became infected with a hard case of desert-itis.

So back he came in the fall of '45. There was a road, a rugged, hand-made Bartel-made road that he followed all the way. And at its end were the Bartels, and the two men found they had been at Oregon State together. It was Harold who told him about the remote site perched on Cat Canyon which was, as far as Warren was concerned, exctly what the doctor ordered.

So Warren began to build his road, and a long stretch it was. The first winter season he got in as far as the hill above what is now Padelford's. But the roughest country, the deepest canyon and the steepest climb were all ahead. It took a bulldozer in 1947 to get through to the site.

But before Jones got there, a flood washed out the road through the canyon. So back he went to the do-it-by-hand-er way. He built a rock dam above the road, filled up the hole and got across long enough for him and Jimmy Barrington to get a cabin up. When it was finished, the road was gone again.

It took two more winters of playing tag with the canyon floods before they could move in. That was 1950.

Of course the fight is still going on, with the present round going to Warren. But that's part of the game. And a joyous game it is to Warren, Patricia, David, Scott and Steve, because in addition to privacy, they are very close to Nature.

It was November 1952 that David, Scott and Larry Stevens climbing the hills across Cat Canyon from the cabin, saw a mountain lion. And just last February, silhouetted on a desert mountain against a clean blue sky, they all saw a mountain sheep.

Few of us enjoy our desert retreat as does that family on the cliff above Cat Canyon.

****

DEAR EVERYONE

After a wonderful desert winter, we are all about to say good-bye to Cahuilla Hills until autumn! In the meantime, why not make Sequoia National Park your vacation spot this summer? If you do, look me up at the Lodge and I'll help you all I can. Those Big Trees are Something. Hope to see you there. With love to all, Mora Brown

****

PD - Cahuilla Hills - 1950s
04-120-6

ROAD SIGN PROGRESS

Mr. Thompson is putting the finishing touches on the map and will soon have it finished ready for framing. He is still needing the description of many of the tracts however and cannot put your name on until he has your location.

A letter from Mrs. Perryman states that Mr. Dudley Carter is preparing sketches of the sign and as soon as they know the proportions, they will send them so the height and distance between the poles will be known and work can start on that. Mr. Carter says he will have the sign ready for shipment by May 10. Mr. Carter is an artist of renown and we are fortunate to have such talent.

The poles are here and it looks as tho' the sign will soon be a reality, instead of a dream. As soon as the sign is placed, may we hope each individual sign at the turnoff will be taken down.

Contributers for the road sign are as follows:

Perryman	Schubert	Bartel	Clayton	Mitchell	Reck
Hoffman	Schaak	Schaefer	Brown	Waters	Mayer
Hesper	Hitchcock	Price	Wurst	Coleman	McCrillis
Nelson	Schaad	Padelford	Cady	Murray	Franklin
Jester	Visser	Hanft	Henderson	Burns	Remington

PERSONALS

Allen K. Thompson has been doing some work on his own to get elecricity in this vicinity. The following letter was sent to him from the California Electric Power Company at Palm Springs. "We have been in contact with several of your friends and neighbors relative to the extension of electrical service to section 36 and have advised them that we are presently making a study for service to the area. Sincerely yours.
Francis F. Creaker"
Since we received this copy of this letter, the Calif. Electric Power Co. has put in an office at Palm Desert.

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Slake of Pasadena were the weekend guests of Tom and Etta McGuire a week ago. Etta is recovering from recent surgery.

Mr. & Mrs. McCrillis also spent las weekend here escaping the Los Angeles fog and mist and enjoying our sunshine.

The weather here could'nt be better. For two weeks it was pretty hot, but rain in Los Angeles brought a cool breeze to the desert and now it is perfect. A slight breeze that threatened to become a wind passed through here Friday.

A letter from the Henderson's says they have had just 3 hours of sunshine there in the last month. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson spent the weekend of April 24 and 25 at Cahuilla Hills and certainly enjoyed the sunshine.

Merrill and Aurera Remington arrived from San Francisco Tuesday. They brought with them Merrill's Mother and his daughter Jan and also Aurera's Father, Mr. Cravers. Mrs. Remington and Jan expect to stay for about two weeks, Merrill and Aurera plan to stay till June 1st.

The tentative date of May 15 has been set for the Spring music festival. Definite plans cannot be made as yet as Mafalda Heeper has not arrived from San Francisco. We are sorry Lucien Mitchell will not be able to be here again this year. He just keeps too busy.

Please keep this date in mind and as soon as we can be sure, we will send work by carrier pigeon, or courier or postcard. This spring musicale is the highlight of the year for Cahuilla Hills and we look forward to it with eager anticipation.

Mr. H. E. Franklin has been putting in steady work on their house on the hill near Mrs. Hanft's and Tommy Thompson's. Looks like its going to be a very nice place.

May we quote from a letter from Hanft.
"I think the names suggested for the roads are very apropriate and it is our opinion that you who are active in this program should just go ahead and name the roads and I am sure they will be accepted by all.
You mentioned the April 5th issue of Life Magazine - very good. Would also encourage all nature (desert) lovers to see Walt Disney's production 'The Living Desert.' In it he has all the little creatures of the desert playing either leading or supporting roles and has graced the backdrop with nature's spectacular desert flora. The symphonic accompaniment is beautiful beyond description.

****

We are closing our second year with this little newsheet. It has been a pleasure to serve you and we have learned much. If we have been the instrument of making a community grow – that is our reward.

We are sincerely grateful to a host of friends for their help and would like to name them all, but space does not permit

Our thanks to all who have sent in news and encouraging letters. Without these letters, our task would have been more difficult. Our thanks to all for their cooperation in the projects we have featured; to all who have given us encouragement along the way and to those who sent in their desert stories to be published.

But our special thanks to Mora Brown for so much special encouragement and for all her poems, and articles written for the paper; to the Price's who loaned us their hill top for Easter Sunrise services, to Bob Waters who has helped us in so many different ways; to Esther Schaak who was Ma Cactus; to Allen Thompson for making the map for the road sign; to the Perryman's for their many letters and who were instrumental in getting the sign carved; to Dick Clayton for his constant interest and help in all civic activities; to Senator Hawkes for his generous gift for the new road; to Merrill and Aurora Remington , Mafalda Heeper and Lucien Mitchell for their inspiring music festival; and to Bob Waters and Arnold Schaak for the "Save the Road" signs.

We could go on and name nearly every one in the section, for you all have been wonderful and this is our sincere thanks.

Have a most happy summer and we'll see you next Fall.

Helen Burns, Barbara and Donald